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crystals being preserved and extended under the pressure. In ice this preservation of surface may be aided by the thin film of air which occupies the minute fissures occasioned by the shrinking of the ice. This may perhaps influence regelation, and serve to keep the columns thus honeycombed from amalgamating.

The rays of the sun falling upon and penetrating this ice are at each interior surface more or less arrested and converted into dark heat, like the heat received from the sun by the earth, and returned to the air in contact with and near the surface, and convert the ice along the planes of separation to water.

The repetition of this process at length so far separates the columns from each other that a slight strain disengages them, and the columns fall asunder, if in water to rapidly disappear in solution.*

Six hundred and fifty-fifth Meeting.

March 11, 1873. — ADJOURNED STATED MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The President announced the death of Hon. James Savage, a Resident Fellow; also that of Professor John Torrey, of New York, an Associate Fellow.

The verbal changes in Chapter IX., Section 3, of the Statutes, having for their object to make it conform as nearly as possible to Section 2, as amended, were referred to the President and Recording Secretary.

A paper on the "General Equation," by G. W. Pierce, was referred to the Recording Secretary.

Professor H. P. Bowditch moved that a committee of five be appointed to consider the propriety of seeking to obtain legislation providing better methods of procuring expert testimony in the courts of this Commonwealth; and that the committee so appointed be instructed to confer with the committees appointed for the same purpose by the Suffolk District Medical Society, and by the Boston Society of Medical Sciences.

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* General Totten, in the paper above referred to, suggests that the columnar structure is determined in the original formation of the ice by vertical prisms shot down from above, which increase by lateral accretion till they drive all the air in solution in the water into thin vertical films, marking the boundaries of the crystals. This suggestion may be entitled to higher consideration than my observations lead me to attach to it. It does not seem at all to meet the case of ice made up of snowflakes. The cavities or threads or filaments in ice are, moreover, as I have demonstrated, *vacua,* and not spaces filled with air.

Extended remarks on this motion were made by H. P. Bowditch, Edward Jarvis, C. T. Jackson, Henry W. Williams, and Emory Washburn.

The motion was adopted, and the President appointed on this committee Emory Washburn, Horace Gray, Edward H. Clarke, H. L. Eustis, and Wolcott Gibbs.

Professor John Trowbridge made a communication on "Induced Thermo-electric Currents," being a continuation of a paper on "Animal Electricity" presented at a previous meeting.

Mr. W. A. Rogers described a method for dispensing with tangent-screws and verniers in instruments.

Professor Joseph Winlock exhibited a method of representing the nebulæ, being a reproduction of the original drawings by the *heliotype* process. He also made a communication on the sun-spot observations taken at the Kew Observatory during the year 1872 by Warren de la Rue, with the corresponding observations at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Six hundred and fifty-sixth Meeting.

April 8, 1873. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The President announced the death of Joseph Hale Abbot, a Resident Fellow.

Professor J. D. Whitney presented to the Academy four volumes of his "Report on the Geological Survey of California."

A portion of the report of the Council was read by the President, namely, the eulogy of the late Professor John Torrey.

Professor J. D. Whitney then made a communication on the reliability of the barometer as a hypsometrical instrument, being the results of the comparison of a series of elevations de-